exports have been allowed in order to encourage small exporters; (iii) value addition norms have been further simplified; and (iv) the period for the fulfilment of export obligation has been suitably increased.

**Air Intelligence Unit**

2785. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Air Intelligence Unit;

(b) if so, the airports to be checked against smuggling and other illegal activities; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check economic offences which are on the rise in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Air Intelligence Units (AIUs) of Customs are already functioning at the respective International airports. AIUs are engaged in gathering intelligence and taking specific actien to prevent and check smuggling activities.

(c) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent economic offences in the country. Specific measure taken includes targeting of intelligence; surveillance over sensitive area to curb smuggling; setting up of Directorate of valuation to detect cases of customs under-valuation; strict and deterrent action is taken against the persons found involved in smuggling and economic offences.

**Guidelines for JRY/NRY etc.**

2786. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government/RBI have issued any specific guidelines to maintain the personal ledger account, frame treasury rules etc. for respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific directions have also been given to State Governments to keep separate accounts for JRY/NRY schemes, Employment Assurance Scheme etc.; and

(d) if, so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Health Insurance to Private Sector**

2787. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the prime reasons for setting up of the Health Insurance to the private sector;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any guidelines/directions for those aspiring to enter into this business; and

(c) whether the Government have sorted out the problems associated with settlement of medi-claims which is a major source of public dissatisfaction and the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech, the intention of the Government was announced to move necessary amendments to enable GIC to float joint ventures and also to allow entry of selected Indian players in the health insurance sector in view of the low penetration of health insurance cover in the country and the demand for new health insurance products. Comprehensive regulations will be made and enforced by the Insurance Regulatory Authority for all health insurance service providers.

(c) The GIC had, in July/August, 1996, made certain amendments in the Medi-claim Insurance Policy to make the administration of the Scheme and the claims settlement procedure simpler. The overall limits of reimbursement have been enhanced and various sub-limits, such as, room charges, doctors' fees, medicines and diagnostic charges, etc. have been removed. This simplification will help in prompt settlement of health insurance claims on compliance of requirements by the claimants.

**Export of Mangoes**

2788. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great possibility of exporting mangoes from India to other countries;

(b) whether Australia has shown interest in importing Indian mangoes and setting up a Mango Processing Centre in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Australia has currently prohibited the import of fresh mangoes from India on grounds of pest infestation. As soon as efficacious treatment to eradicate pest of concern of mangoes is found, it would be possible to export mangoes to Australia. Government is not aware of any Australian Interest in setting up of a Mango Processing Centre in Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]*

**Use of Hindi**

2789. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings of Hindi Consultative

Committee in the Ministry held after its reconstitution during the last two years;

(b) whether the Rajbhasha is being neglected intentionally;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of Magazines/Pamphlets published in Hindi by departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(e) whether their special issue would be published in the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No meeting of the Hindi Consultative Committee could be held during the last two years, as the Committee has been recently constituted on 18.6.1997 and its first meeting is scheduled to be held on 9.9.1997.

(b) and (c) No Sir, the meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee are held regularly to review the use of Rajbhasha in the Official work.

(d) Five

(e) and (f) Efforts will be made to publish a special issue of Hindi Patrika namely "Vidhaye Patrika" in the Golden Jubilee Year.

*[English]*

**Request to World Bank to Double its Loan**

2790. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI Governor has urged the World Bank to double its loan to India and the World Bank has responded in positive;

(b) if so, the appropriate modality to finalise such an issue;

(c) whether the Government are considering to set up a Commission to assess the impact of World Bank's loans taken by India till now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No Sir. The Reserve Bank Governor has not urged the World Bank to double its loan to India.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Does not arise.

(e) The loans and credits from World Bank are of a concessional nature with long maturity period enabling the Government to undertake developmental projects in social and infrastructure sectors which will yield long-term benefits to the country.

**Trade Agreement With Romania**

2791. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBAHI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Romania for increasing trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India and the Government of Romania has signed a bilateral framework agreement to augment the bilateral trade and economic relations.

(b) the salient features of this agreement are inter-alia, as follows:

(i) All trade in hard currency on internationally competitive pricing and norms;

(ii) extension of Mutual-Most-Favoured-Nation-Treatment;

(iii) encouragement to direct business level contacts, for example, through trade fairs exchange of visits of delegations etc.;

(iv) promotion of joint ventures and other forms of economic cooperation;

(v) encouragement of counter-trade and its variants;

(vi) setting up of joint commissions and holding of these meetings periodically to review the implementation of this agreement;

(vii) encouraging setting up of infrastructural facilities like joint ventures banks etc;

This agreement had provisionally come into force w.e.f. 1.4.1993.

**NICL, Mysore**

2792. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Insurance Company Limited, Mysore has disowned the contractual obligation under various policies, particularly policy No. 62319 dated 30th June, 1994; and

(b) if so, the number of cases reported and facts thereof and the circumstances warranting refusal of insurer to honour its obligation to insure when prima-facie, the loss suffered was on account of piracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) General